



# Towns Win!

*The Fiscal Year 2006-07 revised budget offers a substantial increase in overall municipal aid.*

*Utilizing the FY 2006 budget surplus, an additional amount of money was set aside for municipalities as a one-time revenue sharing grant. The 7th Senatorial District will receive \$927,816 from this grant.*

*Furthermore, the revised budget includes a \$20 million permanent increase to the Special Education – Excess Cost grant. The 7th Senatorial District will benefit from this change by receiving an extra \$710,841 in FY 2007.*



*Senator Kissel with Governor Rell and some members of the Enfield Women's Club at Operation E.L.F.*



How to Reach Me:

Mail

Senator John A. Kissel  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3400  
Hartford, CT 06106 - 1591

Telephone

1-800-842-1421  
TTY 860-240-0163  
(text telephone for the hearing impaired)

E-Mail

John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov

# State Senator John A. Kissel

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## 2006 Legislative Report

# State Senator John A. Kissel



*Enfield Police Chief Carl Sferrazza and daughter Audra's Girl Scout Troop 786 with Senator Kissel*

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# State Senator John A. Kissel

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 session of the Connecticut General Assembly has come to an end. Under the leadership of Governor M. Jodi Rell, the legislature finished business on time for the second consecutive year and without the partisan bickering of the past.

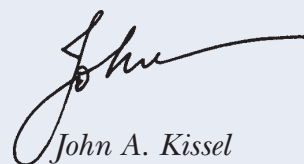
Governor Rell has proven to be a very popular and, more importantly, effective leader for our state. With her leading the way, the state dealt with some very important and far-reaching issues this past year.

I do my best to represent your interests here at the State Capitol and keep you informed of the many matters we debate here.

Please take a moment to read about some of the important measures that were addressed in 2006. You can also visit my senate website at [www.senaterepublicans.ct.gov](http://www.senaterepublicans.ct.gov) for updates on events taking place at the Capitol.

If you have any specific questions regarding these issues or any issue concerning state government, please feel free to call my office at 240-0531, e-mail me at [John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov](mailto:John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov) or write to me at: Senator John A. Kissel, Legislative Office Building, Room 3400, Hartford, CT 06106.

Your Friend,

  
John A. Kissel

State Senator – 7th District



## Budget

Under the strong leadership of Governor M. Jodi Rell, the legislature this year adopted a \$16.07 billion state budget. While the budget includes a modest increase in state spending, it also provides tax relief for individuals, businesses and municipalities. What's more, the revised budget makes a significant deposit into the Rainy Day Fund, and fully funds the Teachers' Retirement Fund for the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years.

The adjusted state budget provides over \$115 million in additional aid to Connecticut's municipalities, including an extra \$3,168,851 to the towns of the 7th District.

## Taxes

The adjusted state budget reduces taxes in Connecticut by \$123 million in 2007. I am pleased to report that the property tax credit that currently stands at \$350 will be restored to \$500 beginning with the 2006 income tax year.

In an effort to create and maintain quality jobs in our state, the legislature has made a series of tax changes that affect businesses, including the repeal of the 15% corporate surcharge for the 2007 income year. Additionally, three new job growth tax credits were established.

1. Job Creation Tax Credit – Businesses that create at least 50 new jobs would be eligible for a credit equal to 25% of the estimated withholding tax per new employee for up to five years.
2. Displaced Worker Tax Credit – A business credit of \$1,500 for each displaced (laid off) worker the company hires.
3. Film Industry Tax Credit – A credit equal to 30% of in-state production costs.



Senator Kissel meeting school children at the Legislative Office Building

## Teachers' Retirement

Since our state's teachers do not participate in the federal government's Social Security program, they rely on the state's Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) for their pensions. Unfortunately, in the 30 year history of the TRF, it has only been funded at 100% by the legislature once, and now it faces an approximately \$5.3 billion shortfall.

That's why I have continued to advocate on behalf of legislation that would amend the Connecticut State Constitution to require the state to fully fund the TRF each and every year. Teachers deserve to know that their pensions will be there for them when they retire.

Although we were not able to pass the new Constitutional Amendment, we were able to fully fund the Teachers' Retirement Fund in both Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007 by depositing \$246 million of the budget surplus into the fund. I promise to continue to advocate on behalf of teachers in order to ensure that they receive their full, promised benefits when they retire.



Senator Kissel,  
Rep. Ruth C. Fahrbach,  
Rep. Richard F. Ferrari and  
First Selectman Dave Kilbon  
at East Granby Farm



Senator Kissel and Representative Penny Bacchiocchi with  
students visiting the Capitol from Somers Elementary School